

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 56

December 2009

No. 10



Calendar

Sat., Nov. 21	GPNS Craft Fair, Town Hall, 10 am–5 pm; last regular Farmer's Market, Penn Place (see p 4)		GPES chorus sings at Veterans Park, Bethesda, 2 pm (see p 6)
Sun., Nov. 22	GPNS Craft Fair, Town Hall	Sun., Dec. 6	Montgomery Potters, Town Hall, 12–4 pm
Wed., Nov. 25	No Citizens Assoc. meeting	Mon., Dec. 7	Monthly yard waste collection
Thurs., Nov. 26	Happy Thanksgiving!	Tues., Dec. 8	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm; <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm
Sat., Nov. 28	Silk Scarf show, Town Hall, 10 am–5 pm; GPES Reunion, 1–4 pm, school	Fri., Dec. 11	27th Annual Do-it-Yourself Car-ol-fest, Town Hall, 7:30 pm (p 2)
Sun., Nov. 29	Silk Scarf show, Town Hall, 10 am–5 pm	Sat., Dec. 12	Santa comes to the Town Hall; 3–5 pm; judging begins of exterior holiday decorations (continues till Dec. 19) (see p 7)
Thurs., Dec. 3	Casual Musicians Club Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm	Mon., Dec. 14	Town Council Meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm
Fri., Dec. 4	Montgomery Potters, Town Hall, 3–9 pm	Thurs., Dec. 17	Senior Games and Tea, Town Hall, 1:30–3:30 pm
Sat., Dec. 5	GIVES collection, Penn Place lobby, 9 am–1 pm; Montgomery Potters, Town Hall, 10 am–6 pm;	Mon., Dec. 21	Benefit concert, Selden Quartet, Town Hall, 8 pm (see p 6)

Draining

Bad news first: The practice of staring at a laptop instead of engaging with other people has spread to the Garrett Park Town Council. A Councilmember has broken the laptop barrier, and our civic life is the worse for it.

Now for the rest of the November meeting: A good-sized crowd appeared, mainly to complain that the town's negotiations to accept the Parks Department's offer of the Garrett Park Estates

activity building are moving too slowly. More on that later in this report.

Before the meeting began, your reporter chatted with the Town Administrator about Maryland's collapsing horse racing industry, and with the Mayor's wife about a Wedgwood Ferdinand the Bull in the DAR museum.

Councilmember Wegner wore a green Garrett Park sweatshirt.

(continued next page)

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Garrett Park, Maryland 20896-0456

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(continued from previous page)

There were no presentations from residents, so the Mayor proceeded with his report. The town presented testimony about the White Flint plan recently. Mayor Keller said that everyone at the meeting who presented testimony seemed in favor of revitalization, and understood that greater density is a necessity, especially around the White Flint metro. Our issue—one shared by others there—involves traffic and transportation, as well as the need to reserve space for an elementary school within the sector.

The Mayor then reminded residents that at 7:30 on November 16 a reception would be held in the Town Hall, to honor Barbara Shidler and celebrate her long service as unofficial town historian and official town archivist. We'll also celebrate her many acts of generosity and kindness; as Phil Normandy pointed out during the last Tree Walk, a remarkable number of the town's notable trees were planted by Barbara at her own expense.

The Mayor also announced that before the next Town Council meeting, on December 14, the town's District 17 legislative delegation will make a presentation (everyone's invited). The Mayor also meets soon with a group of second graders to talk with them about local government.

In Council Reports, Hans Wegner said that the WSSC has contacted the town about a drainage sewer in Porcupine Woods that seems in danger of collapse. They want to put a liner in what looks to be a 75 to 100 foot section in order to reinforce the pipe. During this work, townspeople might for a short time notice "an unattractive smell."

Hans then described the work so far of the White Flint Coalition, which is talking with a group of builders about local concerns revolving around this large project. As he and Council-member Mandel discussed this group, anxious mutterings among residents in attendance began. Might there be shifts in school clusters with these changes? Can we really expect to have much influence with the builders? "There are certainly no guarantees," said the Mayor; but, said Hans Wegner, "They really want community support. So to that extent we may have some leverage."

Back to the activity building: There was no vote on whether to accept the offer, but the Coun-

cil went into Executive Session that evening to discuss legal issues and try to come to a decision.

Since the nursery school is the building's prospective tenant, and since it is eager to begin fund-raising and other activities, its representatives expressed anxiety for this matter to be resolved. The Mayor responded that the town needs to proceed with some care at this stage: "Liability issues still need working out. Town finances are relatively strong at the moment, but they could get worse, so we have to be very careful about the financial implications of the deal."

Next, more town drain issues burst forth. And these are drains *we*, and not the WSSC, own, explained Ted Pratt. They're on Shelley Court, and the rather complicated process of fixing them will cost real money.

Beth Irons described the most recent work of the Land Use Task Force. They had a work session on October 26; they have also sent a letter to an attorney asking for advice on setback issues. Finally, a Land Use Survey was distributed in various ways (electronically; in hard copy at the Post Office) to the residents of Garrett Park.

The meeting closed with a reading from the Town Budget. "The only fly in the ointment," said Ted, "is the Shelley Court drain... plus some pruning expenses." He also announced that we've got a couple of surplus items—an HP Scanner and HP inkjet printer—in the Town Office; we can put them out for bids or donate them someplace. How does the Council want to handle it?

Margaret Soltan

Start the Holidays in Song

Come and warm up your pipes with some music to help usher in the holiday season. The 27th annual Do-it-Yourself Carolfest will be held in the Town Hall on Friday, December 11, at 7:30 pm. Featuring a mixture of sacred and secular music, the first half of the evening will be geared towards the children, so that after refreshments the younger ones can leave, and the serious singers can continue with some harder music in four-part harmony. So bring your voices ready to open the holiday season in rousing song.

Mary Moyer



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The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$20 per family or \$10 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

Citizens Association Officers:
President: Chris Strong
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Town Administrator Notes

Holiday Gifts: If any resident would like to make a holiday gift to the five men who take away our trash, recycling, and yard waste, please mail it to PO Box 84, or drop it off at the Town Office. Checks should be made payable to Garrett Park, with Holiday Fund written in the memo section. We will handle this the same way as we have in past years. The town will send each contributor an acknowledgement and will see that the fund is properly distributed the week before Christmas.

Holiday Collection of Trash, Recycling, & Yard Waste: Thanksgiving Day trash collection will be on the following Monday (Nov. 30). The trash collection that would ordinarily occur on Thursday, December 24, will be on the following Monday (December 28). In winter, yard waste will be collected on the first Mondays: December 7, January 4, and February 1. We will return to weekly Monday collection of yard waste in March.

January Christmas Tree Collection: Please put your trees out for collection with the yard waste on Monday, January 4, if possible. Otherwise, put them out as you take them down and town staff will come around and chip them. Please try to have them out by the following Monday (Jan. 11). All Christmas trees collected are recycled.

Large Item Collection: The next large item collection will be on Saturday, January 9.

Leaves & Traffic: The leaves are falling thick and fast now, and big piles are appearing at the roadside. Please ask your children not to play in piles along the street. Motorists, please use extra care and keep your speed down. Leaf-rakers, please try to keep your piles as narrow as possible so as not to restrict the flow of traffic unduly.

Town Hall Rentals: The Town Hall continues to be very much in demand. Residents who wish to reserve it for events should plan well ahead in order to reserve a date and avoid disappointment. Call the Town Office to make a reservation.

Montgomery County Volunteer Center: Every year the MCVC compiles a list of ways to help others during the holiday season. To donate time, money, or gifts, please call the Volunteer Center at 240-777-2600 or visit the Web site at www.montgomerycountymd.gov and click on "volunteers" at the left of your screen.

Elizabeth, Jose, Barbara, Butch, and Frank join me in wishing all town residents a fine Thanksgiving. As always, if you have questions, concerns, or just want to chat, please feel free to stop by the office any time, or call us at 301-933-7488.

Ted Pratt, Town Administrator

Visit Garrett Park's Web site:
www.garrettpark-md.gov

Parks and Open Space

The Parks and Open Space Committee (POSCO) thanks everyone who participated in the 2009 Parks Survey. With interest and diligence, committee members read and recorded *all* surveys and *all* comments and gained valuable information. This, together with committee and other advisory observations, resulted in the following:

- 1. The Committee will focus next on possible upgrades to the Town Tennis Court area adjacent to the pool.
- 2. The Mayor and Town Council approved replacement of Cambria Playground play structures. Work will begin January 2010.
- 3. Survey results and other research findings regarding Wells and Garrett-Waverly parks will be forwarded to M-NCPPC via the Mayor and Town Council.
- 4. There is now natural seating in Porcupine Woods for bird watchers, poets, artists, and thinkers. The POSCO envisions a cooperative venture to develop a plan to improve that area's natural attributes, such as drainage and native versus invasive plants.
- 5. Research regarding the Yeandle property is under consideration. We will communicate with the Garrett Park Conservation Trust.

The committee looks forward to continuing to hear opinions and ideas from all residents. If anyone wants to review the raw data, tabulations, and conclusions of the 2009 Parks Survey, please make an appointment to meet me in the Town Archives Room behind the Post Office desk.

Finally, the committee is very pleased to welcome three new members: Jim Fitzgerald, Art Heyman, and Frank Obrimski.

Ida Sullivan, Chair

Jobs List

We only had two brave souls willing to advertise their muscles for snow shoveling. Please see the paper version of the *Bugle* for details.

You will need to keep these two names handy for help getting ot of your driveway. (No offers for baby sitting!)

Services for Seniors

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3

Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

♪ On Saturday, December 5, from 12 to 5 pm, Jeanne Mandelblatt is again inviting everyone to her home at 10716 Montrose Avenue for her annual "Shop to Stop Breast Cancer" holiday gift sale. Wine and cheese will be served, and the sale will feature handcrafted fiber art from *Knit one, Cure one*, as well as jewelry; all sale proceeds will go to Jeanne's Avon Walk for Breast Cancer 2010 team. Last year's team of 20 (including Jeanne and Elizabeth Henley) raised nearly \$50,000. Jeanne says, "Together thousands of men and women walked and raised \$7 million. Nearly all of the funds

go to cancer research and care in our area. One long-term recipient is the Capital Breast Cancer Center in southeast DC that provides free mammography. You can help by shopping, bringing your friends to shop, donating crafts, signing up to walk with us, or cheering the walkers. So come and shop to stop breast cancer! What a wonderful holiday gift."

♪ Henri and Chris Keller express their deep gratitude to the many residents who were so supportive when their son's dog "Nina," who called Garrett Park her home for so long and loved it so much, passed away.

Annual Tree Walk

As the sun broke through a raw November afternoon, a hardy group of residents and visitors—accompanied by two four-legged companions—gathered around Garrett Park's Town Arborist Phil Normandy for the 2009 Garrett Park Arboretum Committee Tree Walk.

The Annual Tree Walk, which highlights the town's status as a "livable arboretum," is an opportunity to view the town's trees in their most colorful autumn garb while learning about the Arboretum. This year's walk, which took place on November 1, began with a tour of the sugar maples that canopy Waverly—cultivars that tolerate the warm Washington summers, even though far from their native New England climate. At the top of Kenilworth, the group received a lesson in how root girdling can inhibit growth in newly planted trees and ultimately strangle the trees as they grow, and how to avoid too-deep planting. We crossed Strathmore to appreciate the majestic Siberian elms that border the roadway in front of the Town Hall, and we then headed down Oxford to Montrose to view the plantings of Katsura trees, which on frosty fall mornings have the aroma of burnt sugar (or cotton candy!).

At the intersection of Keswick and Oxford, the group saw two of the town's most whimsical plantings, a "hardy rubber tree" that has visible latex threads in its saw-toothed leaves, and the newly planted Kentucky coffee tree, which will

need a few more years before it produces the coffee-like beans that pioneers actually used for their morning brew. (Word is that Starbucks has its eye on that corner for some time in the next century.)

Then the group viewed the plantings on Cambria adjacent to the Garrett Park pool, including butterfly bush, crape myrtle, magnolia, and golden rain trees, ending with a visit to one of the town's Wye Oak seedlings—a direct descendent of Maryland's famous State Tree.

Although some trees were already past their peak colors, others, such as many of the maples along Waverly, were in perfect hue. The committee is now scouring nursery catalogues for interesting new trees for spring planting.

Garrett Park is fortunate to have the variety and beauty of so many different trees. It is one of the things that makes our town a unique place to live. If you missed the tour, a pamphlet is available in the town office, or from the Arboretum Committee, titled "A self-guided tour of the trees of Garrett Park," which points out some of the town's most interesting leafed residents.

Michael Spekter

Farmer's Market

The Derstines have let us know that after November 21, they will be delivering produce on Saturdays by order only. They are setting up an e-mail list to receive orders. At the beginning of the week, they will e-mail you what is available. Then you can e-mail them your order, and they will have it packed and ready for pickup between 9 am and 12 noon at the usual location by the Garrett Park Post Office. To join the e-mail list, please notify them at haresvalley@pcfreesmail.com or call 814-448-2784.

Remember your loved ones with a fine oil or pastel portrait by Robert LeMar.

For an example of Robert's work, please see a photo of his portrait of the President on the GP bulletin board.

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Art at Penn Place

The work of artist Mary Sollway will be exhibited at Penn Place from December 13 to January 16. Mary writes, "For over 20 years, I have enjoyed painting with acrylics, inks, and oils. During the same period, while residing in Los Angeles, I concentrated on creating sculptures incorporating a variety of industrial materials and neon lighting. Most recently my paintings have evolved as I integrate memories of travels and life experiences with explosion of color and shapes.

"The visual adventure begins with a painting, as it starts to bring to life the passion and emotion with color and form working together to feel the early morning walk, the light shining through the cathedral window, the sun setting over the mountains, or simply the thought of someone loved dearly."

Green Again


First, we are happy to thank an anonymous donor for this and next month's green banners. Next, unfortunately, money is running tight for the Citizens Association (and thus the *Bugle*). So we have looked again at the true cost of printing our lovely shade of green. It turns out that it is about \$60 an issue. So we will be doubling up previous donations; for future donations, we will ask for \$60 to sponsor an issue. (But all donations are welcome!)

In view of the tight money situation, anything you can do to help is appreciated. Specifically, please remember that all Garrett Parkers are members of the Citizens Association, and we ask for yearly dues: \$20 per family or \$10 per individual. Please send them to Box 456. In January we expect to distribute envelopes to make it even more convenient for you to pay.

Mary Moyer

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Conservation Tour

GPCAN and GPC Trust cosponsored the first Conservation in Action tour on October 4. Over 50 visitors toured 18 homes and locations showcasing different types of conservation measures. Our local citizens are doing a lot to conserve energy, preserve open space and habitat, and reduce runoff. Thank you to the 11 homeowners who opened their properties to visitors and served yummy snacks. If you were not able to tour, visit the GPCAN Web site at www.gpcan.org for details and photos.

Have you considered having an energy audit? A home energy audit provides a blueprint for making your home more energy efficient. A professional energy auditor uses a variety of techniques and equipment to determine the energy efficiency of your home and provides a written report outlining steps to take to most effectively improve its efficiency and comfort.

GPCAN is currently researching arrangements for discounts for energy audits for Garrett Park residents. If you would like to participate, send your e-mail, street address, and phone number to Beth Irons, 301-942-4849, birons@Sail-Realty.com. More details about energy audits are on the GPCAN Web site.

Santa Is Coming

Santa will be making a stop at the Garrett Park Town Hall, on Saturday, December 12.

Join the fun starting at 3 pm to sing holiday songs with George Oakley, enjoy a snack, and welcome Santa! We are collecting gently used coats/gloves/hats for a local shelter, so if you have extra winter gear, please bring them to the Town Hall on that day.

Celia Peacock



9am-9pm
Mon - Sat
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Sunday

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GPES

The holiday season is quickly approaching. The reunion, set for two days after Thanksgiving, is coming along nicely. If you plan to attend and sent in your forms, you can pay at the door. And if you decided not to come, please send in the survey anyway. We're trying to update our information about the school and its history.

On December 5, the 4th and 5th grade chorus will sing at Veterans Park in Bethesda at 2 pm. We're the first group on the list, so the concert should start pretty promptly. Last year it started snowing while the students sang. (I nearly froze my fingers off playing the keyboard.) The chorus will have its Winter Concert at the school on Tuesday, December 15. All town residents are invited.

A third of the student body was selected by lottery to join the clubs that will be meeting on Wednesday afternoons. Activities range from cooking, environmental concerns, stitchery, and Little Feet, to musical theatre, yoga, and crafts. It should prove exciting for the students to get to try their hands (and feet) on something new.

Mary Moyer

Music Scholarship Fundraisers!

Come hear the Selden String Quartet, featuring Garrett Park's Lucia Petito, on Monday, December 21 (8 pm, Town Hall). This evening of chamber music will support the Ilah Gieser Memorial Music Scholarship Fund, which has offered private music lessons to a GPES 5th grader each year for the past 14 years. (Lucia, a regular participant in the spring musicales, has formed a quartet with some fellow students at the Eastman School of Music—she is also enrolled at the University of Rochester, concentrating on math.) Donations will be gratefully accepted at the door. Need a ride? Look for a carpool list in the Post Office! We'll get you there and back.

The next musicale in support of the scholarship will be held on Sunday, May 16 (the Sunday after Mother's Day), at 4 pm. If you'd like to play or sing on the program, please contact Sue Petito. We showcase all accomplishments! Interested in singing in a small chorus? The Town Singers always welcome new and returning voices. It's gobs of fun and supports the next generation of music-makers. Come join us!

Films, Food, & Fun in 2010

Where can you share an affordable evening of entertainment and dinner with friends and neighbors? At the Town Hall, that's where! The Garrett Park Film Society 2010 Series offers all that, with films that appeal to a variety of ages and tastes. The first three of the eight in the series give a sense of what you can expect. In January, the 2006 Pedro Almodovar film *Volver* features Penelope Cruz in a role for which she was nominated for an Academy Award as Best Actress. Then in February, *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg* should keep you in a romantic mood after Valentine's Day. Last year the *New York Times* named *The Commitments* the best film to see on St. Patrick's Day; that or *Waking Ned Devine* is penciled in for March.

If you've ever attended one of the films, you know that the Film Society is not just about the movies, it is also about food and conviviality. Reasonably priced dinners cooked by local chefs and inspired by the origin or theme of the film have

become a tradition and are often just as anticipated by attendees as the films themselves. A fine selection of wine and beer is on offer for the adult crowd, although films like *The Thin Man* occasioned some memorable martinis.

Other films on the GPFS short list for 2010 include *Sullivan's Travels*, a Preston Sturges comedy from the 40's; *Black Stallion* and *Millions* for family-friendly entertainment; *Sideways* or *Bottle Shock*, either of which will present a wine tasting opportunity; and one or two documentaries including *Rivers and Tides*, *The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill*, and *Murderball*.

Membership in the Film Society gives you free admission to the films, coupons good for soft drinks, water, popcorn, nuts, and occasionally other food-related perks. So consider joining in 2010. Memberships start at \$25 for a single person, or \$40 for a family. (See membership form below).

Garrett Park Film Society 2010 Series

Yes! I want to be a member.

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☐ e-mail

Name: _____

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All membership levels include admission to all films and coupons that can be used for soft drinks, popcorn (when available), and nuts. Higher memberships receive more coupons.	Choose membership level:	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Gaffer, Single	\$25 (5 coupons)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Gaffer, Family	\$40 (10 coupons)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Screenwriter	\$100 (20 coupons)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Film Sponsor	\$200 (20 coupons; reserved front row seats for sponsored film; acknowledgement of your support)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Director	\$250 (20 coupons; one glass of wine or beer per film)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Producer	\$500 (20 coupons; free dinner for two for each film shown in 2010)

Mail form and check to Suzanne Grefsheim, GPFS Treasurer, Box 175, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

Make check payable to "Garrett Park Film Society" or "GPFS."

Letter from the Mayor

Fall is a glorious time in Garrett Park, as recent walking tours have reminded us. A reprise of the Architectural Walking Tour conducted by Nancy Schwartz of the Garrett Park Historic Preservation Committee highlighted the diversity, charm, and fascinating history of our built environment and the people who have inhabited our town over the years. The annual Arboretum Committee Tree Walk, led by the town's arborist Phil Normandy (see p 4), allowed us to appreciate the beauty of autumn color at a walking pace, as we learned fascinating details about the town's trees—how they are chosen and cared for.

This is also a time of year when we reflect on the many things for which we are thankful. In the Washington area, we can be grateful that we have been spared much of the financial impact of recent national economic woes. Still, the realities of sacrifices at other governmental levels are felt here: Garrett Park's share of highway user fees—a significant source of revenue for the town—were slashed nearly 90 percent by the state. Notwithstanding occurrences of that sort, the town finances are healthy, thanks to conservative budgeting and prudent spending.

Mostly, we are thankful for the people in our lives—family, friends, neighbors, co-workers. At the community level, the quality for which we are most appreciative is the volunteerism that contributes so much to Garrett Park. Just a few examples (in addition to the Historic Preservation and Arboretum Committees, mentioned above): In classic Garrett Park fashion, we gathered on November 16 to honor nonpareil volunteer Barbara Shidler for her many contributions to the town—from establishing the Arboretum to serving as Town Archivist. Few residents bring the breadth and depth of commitment to the town that Barbara has displayed, but we are thankful for the work of many, and particularly for the participation of newer and younger residents in such groups as the Citizens Association and the Land Use Task Force. Realizing full well the increased demands of raising a family these days, we are particularly appreciative of the time that these residents contribute to the town.

The Citizens Association's October meeting was valuable; I want to thank Chris Strong and the CA officers for leading a discussion of current town issues—the Land Use Task Force and the town's potential acquisition of the Community Center/Nursery School building. You can follow developments in each of these initiatives on dedicated pages of the town's Web site: www.garrettpark-md.gov.

I want to extend my personal thanks to the Town Council; they are dedicated volunteers, too, and have been expending a great deal of time and effort on the broad array of issues that currently face the town. And I know I speak for every resident when I express our thanks to the town's dedicated workers, every one of whom contributes to the indelible character of Garrett Park in ways that go far beyond their role as "employees." We are lucky to have such a committed staff.

In closing, I extend my warmest wishes, and those of my family, to all for a joyous holiday season.

Chris Keller

Holiday Decorating Contest

Would you like to bring some light to the neighborhood? Foster your creativity? Share some cheer? Then participate in the Women's Club's Holiday Decorating Contest!

Decorate your house (outside) or yard with a holiday theme. On a cold December night (probably December 20), Santa's elves will wander through Garrett Park, selecting houses that merit an award. The planned categories are Best House, Best Yard, Most Creative, Best Door, and Best Tree (also Honorable Mentions). We will place special signs on winners' lawns for all to see and leave them in place until New Year's Day.

Be sure to tour Garrett Park and view the wonders of our beautiful neighborhood. Visit your neighbors and congratulate the contest winners. Most of all—enjoy the holiday season! Ho, ho, ho!

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Garrett Park

He will be at the TOWN HALL
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Sing along with George Oakley
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